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REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health for 1938

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TO THE

Winchester Rural District Council

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1938

TWYFORD.

May, 1939.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for last year, being the forty-fourth which I have had the honour to submit as your Medical Officer of Health.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
G. A. E. ROBERTS, D.P.H.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area—110,436 acres.

Population—33,050. (Registrar - General's Estimate mid - year 1938.)

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938)—9,503.

Rateable Value at 31st December, 1938—£228,926.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£902.

Vital Statistics.		Total	M.	F.
Live Births	Legitimate	494	257	237
	Illegitimate	23	11	12
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 15·6.				
Still Births	Legitimate	15	9	6
	Illegitimate	1	1	–
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 30·1.				
Deaths		346	193	153
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 10·5.				

Deaths from puerperal causes :—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis ...	0 ...	0
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	0 ...	0
Total	0 ...	0

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	36·8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	38·5
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	46
,, Measles (all ages)	2
,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	0

The following table shows the comparison of some of the above figures compared with those for the whole of England and Wales :—

	Per 1000 Population Birth Rate	Per 1000 Population Death Rate	Per 1000 Live Births Infant Mortality
England and Wales	15·1	11·6	53·0
Winchester Rural District ...	15·6	10·5	36·8

	Causes of Death	Males	Females
	ALL CAUSES	193	153
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—
2.	Measles	2	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	—	1
6.	Influenza	2	1
7.	Encephalitis Lethargica	—	1
8.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—
9.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	8	9
10.	Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	—
11.	Syphilis	1	—
12.	General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis	—	1
13.	Cancer, malignant disease	18	28
14.	Diabetes	1	3
15.	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	10	16
16.	Heart Disease	36	34
17.	Aneurysm	—	1
18.	Other Circulatory Diseases	8	9
19.	Bronchitis	7	6
20.	Pneumonia (all forms)	10	5
21.	Other Respiratory Diseases	3	2
22.	Peptic Ulcer	3	1
23.	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	—	—
24.	Appendicitis	3	1
25.	Cirrhosis of Liver	1	—
26.	Other Diseases of Liver, etc.	—	—
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	4	1
28.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	10	5
29.	Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
30.	Other Puerperal Causes	—	—
31.	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.	12	2
32.	Senility	12	7
33.	Suicide	3	—
34.	Other Violence	13	3
35.	Other defined Diseases	23	17
36.	Causes ill-defined or unknown	1	—
37.	Diarrhœa (2 years and over)	—	—
	Deaths of Infants under 1 year :—		
	Total	15	4
	Legitimate	15	4
	Illegitimate	—	—

The deaths in the above table include residents who died outside and exclude non-residents who died within the district.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health. D.P.H.
Not in general practice.

Assistant Medical Officer of Health.
Part Time.

Senior Sanitary Inspector. C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Two District Sanitary Inspectors. C.R.S.I.

Hospitals.

There are no Hospitals in the district belonging to the Council.

The arrangements continue with the Southampton Borough to admit cases of Notifiable Infectious Disease to their Isolation Hospital from the parishes of Hound, Hamble, and West End, and with Winchester City to take in cases from the rest of the district.

Ambulance Facilities.

For Infectious Disease.

Ambulances belonging to the Winchester City Council and the Southampton Borough Council.

For Cases of ordinary Sickness and Accidents.

No special arrangements are made by this Council but ambulances are available from the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, St. John Ambulance Brigade, Winchester, and Eastleigh Borough, and from several private sources. There is no difficulty in obtaining one when necessary.

Legislation.

No alteration.

Byelaws.

No alteration.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Inspection of the District.

All parts of the area have been frequently inspected by me either alone or with the Sanitary Inspectors.

Water Supply.

The public water mains have been extended in the parishes of New Alresford (300 yards) and Colden Common (650 yards), in the latter case to supply premises where the well water had been found unsatisfactory.

Periodical examinations of all public supplies of water are made, and analysis of well water supplying cottage properties where there is a reason to suspect contamination of the water.

There has been a good supply of water throughout the district, and but a few complaints of shortage of water during the driest part of the season have been reported.

Sewerage and Drainage.

The systems at Hound, Hamble and Twyford continue to work satisfactorily.

Hound.—The extensions of the sewers in this area, mentioned in my previous Report, have now been completed.

West End.—The scheme for the drainage of this parish has now been completed and approved by the Ministry.

New Alresford.—The difficulty of obtaining land for an outfall has now been overcome and tenders have been called for to carry out the work.

Rivers and Streams.

There has been no evidence of any serious pollution of these.

Closet Accommodation.

The conversion of twelve privy pits to W.C.'s or pail conveniences has been secured as the result of informal action.

The majority of houses in the more urbanised portion of the district have the water carriage system.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Number of Council houses infested ...	nil
Other houses	2

The insectide that has been used for disinfection in these cases with success was Zaldecide, and the work was carried out by Contractors.

It has not been found necessary in this district to lay down any method or scheme for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses or to educate tenants to prevent infestation.

Camping Sites.

(*a*) Number of sites used for camping purposes during 1938 2

(*b*) Number of sites in respect of which licences have been issued under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936 2

(*c*) The estimated maximum of campers resident at one time during the summer season 50

Smoke Abatement.

There has been only one case of a nuisance from smoke and this was remedied after service of an informal notice.

Shops.

The provisions of the Shops Act are carried out both by the County Council and this Council, the latter which secures compliance with the sanitary provisions of Section 10, Shops Act, 1934.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are only two privately owned open-air swimming pools in use at present in this district, one of these being in running water.

Schools.

The Water Supply and sanitary arrangements are satisfactory.

The number of cases of notifiable disease amongst school children has been very small, *viz.* :—

Scarlet Fever	21	cases in	11	schools.
Diphtheria	11	cases in	7	schools.
Infantile Paralysis ...	1	case in	1	school.

The schools have been visited and suspicious cases isolated and in the case of diphtheria a large number of contacts have been swabbed. Any found to be positive have been excluded from schools until free.

Other infectious diseases, Measles, Mumps and Whooping Cough, have been prevalent amongst school children throughout the district. Measles was especially prevalent and appeared in seventeen different schools, and I think most of the susceptible children were attacked.

HOUSING.

In the following list statistics are given of inspections made and action taken.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :—*

(1) (*a*) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	341
(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1496
(2) (*a*) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	250
(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1059
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	15
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	133

2. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	117

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—*

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(*a*) By owners	0
(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(*a*) By owners	2
(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 3

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 5

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 0

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit 0

4. *Housing Act,* 1936.—*Part IV.—Overcrowding* :—

(*a*)— (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 2

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ... 2

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 15

(*b*)—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 2

(*c*)— (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 5

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases 10

(*d*)—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding 0

(*e*)—Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ... 0

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

The following table gives particulars of cases of infectious disease notified, excluding Tuberculosis, for which a separate table is given :—

	Notified	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	41	35	0
Diphtheria	16	16	1
Pneumonia*	15	0	15
Erysipelas	3	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	9	0	0
Enteric Fever	0	0	0
Infantile Paralysis	2	2	0

* Only certain forms of pneumonia are notifiable, but the deaths are from all forms.

Scarlet Fever.—Forty-one cases were notified, compared with sixty-four the previous year.

They occurred in thirteen parishes, the largest number in one parish being ten at West End.

There were no fatal cases.

The case rate was 1·23 per 1000 of the population, compared with 2·41 for the whole of England and Wales.

All premises and schools were visited and the usual precautions taken.

Diphtheria.—Sixteen cases were notified as compared with thirty-three the previous year. They occurred in eight parishes.

Of the sixteen cases, three had been immunised, but they had the disease in a very mild form.

There was one fatal case.

The case rate was 0·48 per 1000 of the population, compared with 1·58 for the whole of England and Wales.

Anti-Toxin is supplied free by the Council and is stored at several convenient parts of the district.

Immunisation.—This is given free to children up to five years of age, and a limited number of older children are also allowed free treatment at my discretion. The total number immunised was 78, which is very small compared with 366 the previous year.

Infantile Paralysis.—Two cases of this disease occurred during the year. The first was a boy at Hedge End, who probably became infected at a seaside resort where he had recently been staying and where there had been other cases. This was an urgent case requiring immediate treatment by means of an artificial breathing apparatus. Arrangements have been made for these cases to be admitted to Lord Mayor's Treloar Home at Alton, but unfortunately the " iron lung " was being used for another case. However, the case was removed within a few hours to the Children's Hospital at Great Ormonde Street.

The second case was a child at Bramdean. No evidence of contact with any previous case was found.

Both cases recovered so far as immediate danger was concerned, but both were still in hospital at the end of the year.

At the present time there is an artificial breathing apparatus at both Southampton and Winchester Isolation Hospitals.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
1	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
5	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15	2	2	—	—	2	3	—	—
25	5	4	—	1	—	2	—	—
35	3	1	—	—	3	1	—	—
45	6	1	—	—	2	2	—	—
55	3	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	20	8	4	1	8	9	1	—

Practically all cases of Tuberculosis occurring in the district have been notified to me.

There is no evidence of extensive incidence of, or mortality from, tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the area.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces. Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
Factories ... ... (With Mechanical Power)	30	—	Nil
Factories ... ... (Without Mechanical Power)	45	10	Nil
Other Premises under the Act ... (Including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises)	10	4	Nil
Total	85	14	Nil

2.—Defects Found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of cleanliness ...	6	6	—	—
Want of ventilation ...	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	1	—	—
Sanitary conveniences :				
insufficient	1	1	—	—
unsuitable or defective	3	2	—	—
not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—				
Other offences ... ... (Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.)	3	3	—	—
Total ...	14	13	—	—

Outwork in Unwholesome Premises, Section 108.

Nil.

G. A. E. Roberts,
Medical Officer of Health.

May, 1939.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1938.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to report briefly the year's work of sanitary administration.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The premises used for slaughtering have decreased by two during the year. The number of slaughterhouses under licence is now seventeen.

One Knacker's premises have been rebuilt during the year.

All the premises used in connection with slaughtering of animals have been conducted in a satisfactory manner throughout the year.

A large proportion of beef sold in the villages is obtained by the butchers direct from the abattoirs in neighbouring towns.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned :—

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	—	—	—	—	—
Number inspected ...	16	3	142	174	250
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcases condemned	—	—	1	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	—	—	·7	—	·8
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcases condemned	1	1	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	·8

Milk Supply—Dairies and Cowsheds.

Milk (Special Designation) Order, 1936.—The number of accredited milk producers has increased by eight on last year's figure. The number of dairymen holding licences for Tuberculin-tested milk remains the same.

Improvements in the general sanitation of the cowsheds have been effected during the year.

Particulars of the registration of Dairymen and Cowkeepers are as follows :—

Number of persons registered as Cowkeepers	275
Number of premises used as cowsheds ...	351
Number of cowkeepers who are also retailers of milk	152
Number of shops selling sealed bottled milk only	7
Number of retail purveyors of milk ...	13
Number of Accredited Milk Producers ...	61
Number of Producers of T.T. milk ...	11

Food and Drugs Act.

Samples of the undermentioned food and drugs have been submitted for analysis in this district by the County Council during the year, all of which were found to be genuine :—

Bran	1	Jam	2
Butter	3	Lard	1
Cheese	3	Lemonade	1
Cocoa	1	Lemon Cheese	1
Cod Liver Oil ...	1	Margarine	4
Coffee	1	Meat Pie	1
Condensed Milk ...	3	New Milk	89
Cream	2	Quinine, Amm. Tinct. ...	2
Custard Powder ...	1	Sago	1
Fish Paste	2	Sauce	1
Flour, Self-Raising ...	3	Sausage	6
Glycerine	1	Whiskey	10
Honey	1		

The routine inspections carried out in the district during the year are tabulated below :—

Statute	Nature of Visit	No. of Inspections.	Samples taken	
Milk and Dairies Order, 1926	(*a*) Inspections for reconstructions, alterations, and cleanliness	556		
	(*b*) Number of alterations and improvements to dairy premises	23		
Factories Act, 1937	Routine Inspection of premises	135		
	Defects and want of cleanliness remedied			13
Shops Act, 1934 ...	Routine Inspection of Premises ...	77		
Petroleum Act, 1928	Examination of sites of premises proposed to be used for the storage of Petrol	20		
Meat Regulations, 1924 P.H. Act, 1936	Inspection of Slaughterhouses ... Knackers' Yards ... ... Butchers' Shops ... ... Food Stores	400		
Housing Act, 1936. Part II	(*a*) Inspection of Cottages ...	341		
	(*b*) Re-inspection of Cottages ...	1300		
P.H. Act, 1936	(*a*) Drainage Survey Inspections	105		
	(*b*) Alteration, Inspection and testing of drains	12		
	(*c*) Nuisances found and remedied	120		
	(*d*) Re-inspection of premises ...	818		
	(*e*) Water Supply Inspections ...	80		
	(*f*) Smoke Observations	2		
Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Acts ...	Disinfection of Premises ...	78		
Interviews ...		197		
	Samples of Well-water examined		18	
	Number reported polluted ...			10
	Total	4141	18	23

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

FRANK HURST, M.S.I.A.

May, 1939.